

FREE ROMAN EDITORS

They Enjoy an Exceedingly Peculiar Brand of Liberty.

Their Editorial Opinions Must Conform to Rome's Dogmas, or the Paper Is Suppressed.

In *Seriaty-Six* a writer by the name of D. L. Fordney, of Ballard, Wash., has this to say:

In my first paper... your readers will remember that I called attention to the Roman Catholic congress that convened in Chicago in September, 1893, and the attitude of the Catholic editors took in their resolutions and memorial that they there framed and endorsed and sent "to His Holiness Pope Leo XIII." through the representative of the pope in the United States, Mgr. Satolli. In those resolutions and memorial you have fifty-two loyal (?) sons of America pledging their loyalty, allegiance and filial devotion to a foreigner—Pope Leo XIII.—an Italian living in a foreign land, who never has been in the United States, and never will be, unless his skeleton is brought here and made the patron saint of the Holy (?) Roman Catholic Church in the United States of America.

These fifty-two Catholic editors promising their adherence, and vowing to do all they can to further the interest of the pope in this country! Look at the picture! Fifty-two American (?) citizens writing a memorial beginning as follows:

"Most Holy Father: Prostrate at the feet of your holiness, we, the Catholic editors of the Catholic press of the United States of America, etc.

Behold the scene! These men, who claim (and would get greatly insulted if disputed) to be good, loyal, patriotic American citizens, flying upon their faces in the dirt at the feet of a foreign potentate, a despot, the most tyrannical, licking the filth from off his feet as slaves and jawning sycophants, begging his blessing upon them, and promising in return "not only the loyal service of the tried soldier, but the filial love of the dutiful child."

Query: Do these fellows prostrate themselves at the feet of God with as much devotion as they do at the feet of Leo XIII.? I would like to know.

But why fall on this, prancing, bowing and scraping and slobbering at the feet of Pope Leo XIII.? Listen until I tell you. Using a slang phrase, "THEY HAVE TO!"

Now for the proof of my statement. You will remember I stated in my first paper, in the closing of that article, I would show that there is no freedom of the press in the Roman Catholic Church. This I will attempt to do, and let a criticizing public render its verdict as to whether I have succeeded or not.

That the press is not free, and that liberty and freedom either of speech or press is not countenanced in the Roman Jesuitical church, whose head and body is Pope Leo XIII., is proved from the following, and I ask all who read these articles to read carefully and weigh every sentence in the scale of honest investigation and free speech.

An organization which has dared to put its hand on the divine Scriptures and place them under ban and make the Bible, the Book of God, a prohibited book, and has interfered with the reading of the same by the people, will not scruple to place the freedom of her press under ban and dictate conditions upon which her editors may publish their magazines and periodicals.

Let some one deny the statement that the Roman Catholic Church has placed the Bible under ban and has prohibited its reading by the people, I call your attention to the following: I have before me the "Mission Book"—a recognized book of the church—bearing the imprimatur, Paulus Cullen, Archiep., Dublin, Ireland. All Catholics and all priests know this "Mission Book," and they know what I quote is no A. P. A. or heretical lie, but the living truth, and the much more so because it comes from Ireland. Look on page 496 and you find: "The true faith is that taught by the Pope of Rome and the Catholic bishops."

Now turn to pages 504 and 505: "The simple Catholic-Christian never rests his faith upon ANY BOOK. If he believes the Bible, he believes it only because this is a holy, divine book, dictated by the Holy Ghost, and he is assured by the living and infallible church that this book is really the Word of God. The Catholic-Christian, moreover, only receives that Bible from the hands of a bishop or priest of the Catholic church, because he knows that they are united in faith and charity



If the G. O. P. has the courage to put up that bar and hang out that sign to the enemies of our free institutions, it will surely carry the next election; otherwise it will not.

with the Pope of Rome and the other Catholic bishops. * * He does not trust himself to explain and interpret what he reads in it by himself. He knows only too well that what is contained in the Bible is no word of man, and that it is for this reason no man has the right to interpret and explain the Bible in his own way, according to his own mind, since Jesus Christ speaks to the Catholic church by her bishops and their associates, the Catholic priests."

So much, then, for the "Mission Book." Now I present to you the following law of the Roman Catholic Church concerning the Scriptures, and which is their standing law to-day, and whoever dares violate this law brings down upon his head the curses of the holy church:

"Si ce n'est manifest by experience that if the Holy Bible in the vulgar [common] tongue be permitted everywhere without discrimination, there will arise more evil than good, owing to the rashness of men, let the decision of the bishop or inquisitor be abided by in the matter, so that, with the advice of the confessor or parish priest, they may grant the reading of Catholic editions of the Bible in the vulgar tongue to those whom they shall have ascertained to be likely to derive no harm, but rather an increase of faith and piety, from such reading, which permission must be in writing. If any one shall presume to read or possess them [the Scriptures] without permission, unless first he returns the Bible to the ordinary, he cannot receive the absolution of his sins."

The above accounts for the fact that we never see a Roman Catholic Bible agent. If the reading of the Bible would make the Catholics worse than they are now by not reading it, God have mercy upon their guilty souls! Enough on the prohibition of the Bible.

Dr. G. D. Wolfe, speaking on "The Catholic Press," said: "The Catholic press is to be the antidote for pestilential literature. Catholic editors are not expounders of what the editors may think is doctrine. Editors and writers are to declare the doctrine taught them by the authorized teachers of the church."

And here is proof of the statement. On April 13, 1887, Archbishop Corrigan wrote a letter, and here is a copy: 452 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, April 13, 1887.—Editor and proprietor of *Catholic World*: Gentlemen—By this note, which is entirely private and not to be published, I call your attention to the fact that the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, following the leadership of Leo XIII., has pointed out the duties of the Catholic press, and denounced the abuses of which journals styling themselves Catholic are sometimes guilty. "That

paper alone," says the council (decrees No. 228), "is to be regarded as Catholic that is prepared to submit in all things to ecclesiastical authority."

Later on it warns all Catholic writers against presuming to attack publicly the manner in which a bishop rules his diocese.

For some time past the utterances of the *Catholic World* have been shockingly scandalous. As this newspaper is published in this diocese, I hereby warn you that if you continue in this course of conduct, it will be at your peril. I am, gentlemen, yours truly, (Copy) M. A. CORRIGAN, Archbishop of New York.

How is this for freedom of press? "At your peril." Stop or I will boycott your paper and ruin the editor, if you dare offend me in printing any matter that I cannot endorse. Here is another case—that of Owen Smith and Archbishop Elder, of Cincinnati. These extracts are taken from the *New York Mail and Express*:

CINCINNATI, July 27, 1889.—OWEN SMITH, Esq., Publisher of the *Catholic Telegraph*: Dear Sir—In the *Catholic Telegraph* of July 18 appeared an article, copied from another paper, criticizing a supposed action of the bishops in the last Provincial Council of Cincinnati. It was on the editorial page and in editorial type, in the first column. In the issue of July 25 appeared two original articles, likewise among the editorial matter, of which the first was calculated to bring odium both on the administration of the diocese and on a number of the clergy; referring individually to one of the most meritorious and most venerable priests among us. The second article contained some sentences injurious to the clergy of the diocese, and even unfavorable to the memory of the dead, whom it was intended to eulogize.

On a previous occasion I drew your attention to the admonitions addressed by the sovereign pontiff to Catholic journalists about the spirit that must guide them and the transgressions they must avoid. Since then the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore has forbidden, in very strong language, that either clergy or laity should assail any ecclesiastical persons, particularly those who are in ecclesiastical dignity, by offensive words in the public papers or other publications. It declares that those who publish such things are "disturbers of the peace, enemies of ecclesiastical authority and promoters of most grievous scandal."

Now, then, in discharge of my duty as Archbishop of Cincinnati, I call you to publish in the *Catholic Telegraph* of this coming week (August 1), in the usual place and type of editorial matter, a declaration of your regret for each of the three articles mentioned above; your retraction of all impious asser-

tions contained in them, and your express promise that hereafter you will not allow anything to appear in the paper which may contravene either the admonition of the sovereign pontiff or the prohibition of the council of Baltimore.

It will be necessary to let me see the declaration and promise before it is published, that I may be satisfied of its sufficiency. If you should not think proper to comply with this requirement, it will become my duty to take what other measures may be needed to abate the scandal. Very respectfully, Your servant in Christ, WILLIAM HENRY ELDER, Archbishop of Cincinnati.

Owen Smith's reply: CINCINNATI, July 29, 1889.—MOST REV. W. H. ELDER: Most Reverend Dear Friend: Yours of the 27th inst. is received and contents noted. In reply would say that the nature of the articles referred to, I do not consider myself competent to speak on the subject, and for the further reason that I am now under the care of a physician and have been for the last three weeks. I will therefore say to your grace that the columns of my paper are open to you to say what you please in regard to the articles referred to, over your own signature. I would respectfully call the attention of your grace to the fact that the publication of the *Catholic Telegraph* is the only means of support for myself and family. Your most obedient servant, OWEN SMITH, Per Geo. A. Sturm.

(Dictated by Owen Smith.) Look out for the outcome of Owen Smith and his obnoxious articles in my next letter. Don't forget the letters of Archbishop Elder and Owen Smith. I will produce other evidence that there is no liberty of the press in Romanism, despite her boast of freedom and liberty.

PAW PEW RENT OR BE PUNISHED. Bishop Foley Decrees Against Camp-stools in Father Slattery's Church. LANSING, Mich., Nov. 20.—Bishop Foley has taken a hand in the differences between pastor and people which have existed in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church here for several years. Father Slattery first raised the rent of certain pews. The parishioners refused to pay the increased amount. To enforce payment the pastor placed obstructions to the entrances of the pews. The pew-holders removed them. The priest then removed the seats from the pews entirely, but, nothing daunted, the parishioners brought camp-chairs to church, sat in them during the services and carried them away. This sort of thing was continued for several years. Bishop Foley has now written a decree to the effect that the pew-

holders must either pay the increased rent and leave their camp-chairs at home, or receive canonical censure or excommunication. It is apparent that the long quarrel is coming to an end.

Boycotted the Driver. Here is a case we will substantiate to any person calling at our office: A Catholic merchant said to a person whom he knew to be a member of the A. P. A. that he had been compelled to discharge an Irishman who had been in his employ because of his dishonest practice while driving his wagon, and asked this man to take his place, knowing him to be an honest man, whereupon the said member accepted and started on his rounds, delivering the goods and taking orders. But the customers, discovering an A. P. A. driving for a Catholic, threw up their hands in holy horror and told him he could drive on, and he did drive on until he had made five calls on regular customers, but each one told him to drive on. Finding he could do no business with the customers he quit, which left the man without a driver, as he could not trust his former one and an honest A. P. A. could not sell to his customers. He is indeed in a dilemma, and this is the case with these people everywhere. —Nashville Tribune.

Is This So? An English author, G. R. Starkweather, thinks he has discovered a great "law of sex," of which the following is a summary: If the husband is mentally superior to the wife, the family will consist mostly of girls, and vice versa. Philosophers, lawyers, editors, poets, literary men and brain-workers generally have a large excess of daughters. Wire merchants, innkeepers, small retail dealers, orators, physicians and musicians have a preponderance of boys. Clergymen appear just to struggle through the ordeal without incurring the stigma of inferiority, being equally intelligent, sober and moral with their wives, and producing an equal number of boys and girls. —Holtzdale Observer.

Lottery for Masses. Says a press dispatch from Mexico City, dated Nov. 7: A novel lottery scheme has been adopted by some churches here. Tickets are sold at ten cents each, and the prizes are masses, to be sold for whomsoever the winner designates. At a recent drawing in one church, the grand prize was thirty masses, which were applied to a soul in purgatory. The sale of tickets, amounting to 7,000, netted the clergy of that one church \$700. The legality of this sort of lottery is being looked into. —Lancet Herald.

AMERICANS ON GUARD.

Miss Frances E. Willard's Action Protested Against by Her Sisters.

At the Monday afternoon meeting of the Boston W. C. T. U., Mrs. Susan S. Fossenden presided. The following protest was unanimously adopted, and is to be forwarded to Miss Willard: "To our beloved National President, Miss Frances E. Willard:

"Your sisters of the Boston Union have learned with deep sorrow of the attitude taken by yourself and others at the national convention recently held in Baltimore toward those whom we view as enemies of our nation; and so do thus protest:

"While we recognize the breadth and wisdom of fraternizing with all who may honestly desire to abolish the saloon and do away with the drink traffic, yet we view with alarm the inroads which Romanists are making in our ranks, preventing freedom of speech and action, and we believe that great care should be taken lest they do serious undermining work.

"We do also protest against allowing Roman Catholic priests taking part in our religious exercises at conventions, and call your attention to the fact that many delegates were indignant that a Roman Catholic priest was asked and did offer a benediction at Baltimore.

"We beg you, in investigations which cover so wide a scope, to investigate the doings of the Jesuits, especially at Washington. After thorough, candid investigation we believe you will be convinced that our actions as a national body must be exceedingly guarded toward this most dangerous class in our community.

"In justice to the Massachusetts delegation, we ask that this protest be printed in the *Union Signal*."

Mrs. Mary E. Cheney gave notice that she would present amendments to the constitution at the next meeting. —Boston Daily Standard.

Needles in Her Anatomy.

CASSOPOLIS, Mich., Nov. 24.—Mrs. Nancy Williams, of Brownville, near this city, has suffered untold agony for several weeks. The remedies prescribed by physicians failed to afford relief, and she insisted upon a surgical operation as a last resort. As a result of an incision made in her side, a sewing needle was found imbedded in the flesh. A few days later other incisions were made, until six needles have been removed from her body, and it is believed that still more will be found. Mrs. Williams says she first experienced pain on retiring for the night after she had returned from a quilting bee, and expressed the belief that the needles were forced into her body while working about the quilting frames. Is this another case of penance?

Gives Credit Where 'Tis Due.

GRAND RIDGE, La Salle Co., Ill., November 16.—EDITOR THE AMERICAN: In your last issue you give the percentages of deserters from the Union army. I was in the first battle of the war, and was present at Lee's surrender. I had charge of men during portions of the time, and I always had more foreigners than natives under me. Of the men whom I excused for twenty-four hours, some would not return on time. I would have to mark them as deserters, all of whom would generally return in a day or two. From the beginning to the close of the war I but three men. A. J. REDMAN

As Usual.

The man with the biggest gall livin' in Kentucky. Justice calls him Gussie—Gussie Willson. He was a delegate to the Louisville convention, and when he discovered that the convention was the exclusive property of the A. P. A. he and his dear friend, Mattie O'Doherty, left in disgust. He called these Americans whom he thought he owned, a pack of "midnight assassins." Now Gussie has been begging those "assassins" who were elected to the legislature to vote for him for United States senator. Gussie should go off to some quiet nook, find a nice soft spot, lie down and expire.

Vegetone Cures Constipation.

OMAHA, Neb., Nov. 20, 1895.—Howard Medicine Company, Omaha, Neb.—Dear Sirs: This is to certify that I have been troubled for years with indigestion and constipation, and have taken almost everything I have heard of, but without effect until I used HOWARD'S VEGETONE. I have taken two packages, and can say with enthusiasm that it has cured me. I consider HOWARD'S VEGETONE the best remedy for those diseases I have ever tried, and can recommend it to all similarly afflicted. Very respectfully, MISS MOLLE WALSH, 606 South Sixteenth Street.